

Midas Mine One-Year Exploration Plan

PALS 56960, 09/27/2019

To authorize a phase 1 feasibility study to determine economic viability of a small-scale underground mining operation over a one-year period. Perform surface and underground exploration, focused on sampling and mapping.

Operations would consist of removing brush and stockpiling topsoil and waste rock using a backhoe or small excavator to expose quartz veins on the claims. Upon exposure, sampling would be performed either by hand or using a hydraulic hammer attached to the excavator. Negative explorations would be backfilled with stockpiled waste rock and topsoil. On exposure of positive veins, a larger ~ 500 pounds bulk sample would be removed for additional off site testing. After mapping a sampling stockpiled waste rock and topsoil would be used for restoration.

One to three existing but deteriorated portal(s) would be rehabilitated to provide access for underground exploration. Portal(s) would be re-timbered to standards. A bat-friendly gate would be installed for security.

Access to the Grand View claim would be via NFS Road 22N29B. Access to the Midas claim would be via NFS Road 22N29K. An operations center would be established on Grand View consisting of an 8' x 20' shipping container for storage, an 8' x 30; travel trailer serving as office and communications, a porta-toilet (serviced by contract), parking for vehicles and equipment, fueling and maintenance.

The project was entered into PALS and appeared on the Schedule Of Proposed Actions (SOPA) on September 27, 2019. The project briefed to the Butte County Forest Advisory Committee (BCFAC) September 23, 2019 at their monthly meeting.

The project is anticipated to have a decision in October, 2019 and implementation as weather allows access. Please provide any comments to Donna Duncan, donna.duncan@usda.gov